

The A. F. of M. Weekly News Letter contains a complete list of the important matters affecting labor, including the industrial, legislative, and judicial action, and other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 10. NO. 28

## NEVER-LET-UP AGITATION DEVELOPS PUBLIC OPINION

Labor's non-partisan political activity cannot be estimated by victories alone.

The defeat of numerous reactionaries is not the sole gain. Of major importance is the agitating of public opinion that makes possible the election of candidates pledged to the cause of justice, followed by remedial legislation.

Nothing can withstand the white-hot glare of an aroused and intelligent public opinion.

It is the foundation of all progress in government. It is lasting when based on the thought that a particular wrong affects society as a whole.

When workers first urged free public schools, the plan was ridiculed, but constant agitation convinced the people that ignorance is a menace. Then, free schools became a fact.

Labor's agitation against child labor, for the secret ballot in public elections, for a shorter work week, for a living wage, did not succeed until people caught the point that society would be benefited if the changes were made. Agitation made new viewpoints possible.

This public opinion has no connection with hysteria. It is the sentiment that, at its base, is emotion and sentiment and not on reality and facts.

No public officials dare ignore real public opinion. It sweeps aside opposition to its dictates. It alleges a vengeal press and every labor defender of opinion. It is a fact.

This public opinion cannot be had for the asking. A single resolution is not sufficient to start its restless sweep. Few men abandon long-held views, or stir themselves to act against social injustice by reading the printed word.

Special privilege does not yield because of one declaration.

Public opinion is a golden prize. It is only for those who capture it by ceaseless work, either by the voice of the tongue, or by the pen, that it is sufficient to start its restless sweep. Few men abandon long-held views, or stir themselves to act against social injustice by reading the printed word.

The non-partisan political program of organized labor offers wide fields for this agitation. The story of labor's social program should be told on every political platform, in every assembly of the people, from now until the November election.

The story of labor's ideals, its purposes and its plans is the story of American ideals, of freedom, equality and right relations between men.

Labor has won many victories in the present non-partisan campaign. It has defeated enemies of reaction and elected champions of right. It has awakened labor to its duties as citizens. It has impressed upon the value of the vote, and the importance of the ballot.

That government "of, by and for the people" may be a fact. The list of these victories will be increased as the campaign progresses.

But beyond these, labor has won greater victories by arousing the public to the importance of the vote, and the importance of the ballot as "labor questions" and that had no relation to society as a whole.

### EDUCATING UNIONISTS.

New York, Oct. 2.—The educational movement of the International Ladies Garment Workers' union, which has been active in educating the members of the union, is now being extended to the members of the union who are not yet members of the union.

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Washington, Oct. 2.—United States Senator Myers' term of office does not expire until 1923, but the Montana non-partisan movement has gained such headway that the senator has become non-partisan himself. In a statement issued from this city he calls on the democratic party of Montana to support the republican congressional and state tickets, with the exception of the nominee for attorney general.

Montana non-partisans have wrecked the democratic machine in Montana. Senator Myers is alarmed as he views prospects for 1923, and while condemning the non-partisans, he advocates the same method. "This action may stir my political death warrant," he says, while moralizing on the beauties of private life, rather than "turbulent life convictions."

Senator Myers will know that his political death warrant has already been signed and the copper trust's rule in that state is challenged. His early plea that both parties to come to his rescue at the election two years hence is an eloquent illustration to the power and the growth of the non-partisan movement and independent voting, first urged by the A. F. of M.

Senator Myers is not an ordinary "100 per cent American." During the last session of congress he averaged a million per cent. Tons of valuable white millage were given to the copper trust by the senator.

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## Nonpartisanship Alarms Anti-Trade Union Law Maker

The Montana movement illustrates the nationwide acceptance of a theory that has been continuously urged by organized labor for 40 years.

In Colorado the trade unions, railroad brotherhoods and farmers blocked a movement to have the workers wander off into a separate group, rather than use their force as a balance of power. These workers then entered the democratic primaries and captured the offices. Reaction and its defenders are now shrieking "interlopers," while the labor-farmer combination is arranging to elect their non-partisan ticket. United States Senator Thomas heard the cries of his constituents when he declined to stand for re-election.

At a joint meeting of Tennessee trade unionists and railroad brotherhoods last week, a state-wide non-partisan movement was launched with harmony and enthusiasm. The Connecticut state federation of labor is another of the later entries in the non-partisan field and meetings are being held throughout that state in the interest of the trade union political program. In Mississippi the state federation of labor is aggressive movement and arranging for a number of organized workers to that state.

These states indicate the general activity of organized wage earners everywhere. The sentiment for independent voting is increasing. Labor's long and insistent demand for non-partisanship is bearing fruit. Citizens of other states will now accept labor's viewpoint that candidates must be judged by their records.

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